

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02 SS-14 RSC-01 L-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

SECDEF

JCS

CSAF

S E C R E T STATE 223234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: REDEPLOYMENTS FROM THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 16037

1. IN VIEW OF PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF U-TAPAO, WE BELIEVE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF MOST OR ALL OF 650 SAC PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELEASE ON REDEPLOYMENT AT THIS TIME WOULD TEND TO REFUTE CORRECTION IN BANGKOK POST AS REPORTED IN REFTEL. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AT A SUBSEQUENT DATE, PREFERABLY WHEN THE REDEPLOYMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THIS WOULD HAVE THE ADDED ADVANTAGE OF ALLOWING US TO ANNOUNCE FURTHER REDUCTION IN OUR MILITARY STRENGTH IN THAILAND AT A TIME

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WHEN THE THAI ELECTION CAMPAIGN, DURING WHICH OUR PRESENCE

MAY BE A PROMINENT ISSUE, WILL BE IN FULL SWING.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE PLAN TO EFFECT REDEPLOYMENT OF SAC PERSONNEL WHO RTG HAS AGREED MAY BE WITHDRAWN BY ATTRITION (550-600) AND CURTAILMENT (50-100) OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. THIS WILL ALLOW DOD TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY NECESSARY PERSONNEL ACTIONS. WE ASSUME RTG WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO PROCEEDING IN THIS MANNER BUT REQUEST YOU CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS AND GET THEIR REACTION. INGERSOLL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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